



HIV/AIDS TESTING, COUNSELING AND REPORTING

PROCEDURES AT A GLANCE

HIV Testing and Counseling

- Separate written informed consent is required before ordering an HIV test. The Informed Consent and Agreement to HIV Testing form (DHMH 4667), or the Perinatal HIV Authorization Form (DHMH 4666), or local forms that have incorporated this language should be used to document consent.
- Patients must be counseled about HIV testing and the meaning of an HIV positive test result in order to give informed consent.
- HIV positive patients must be notified of their result, and counseled about preventing HIV transmission and the importance of receiving medical care.
- It is the responsibility of the physician to ensure that partner notification occurs, either by the patient or by the physician. *Assistance can be requested from the health department.*

HIV/AIDS Reporting

- Any patient in your care with a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS is reportable, unless you have previously reported that patient.
- HIV and AIDS are separately reportable events. Therefore, a patient with HIV, who later develops AIDS, must be reported again as an AIDS case.
- Newborn infants whose mothers are HIV positive are to be reported as perinatal HIV exposures.
- Reports are to be made to the local health officer where your practice is located. A list of contact information for health officers is available in the instructions for the reporting form. The Maryland Confidential Morbidity Report form (DHMH 1140) should be used to report. Complete all relevant sections for which information is available.
 - **Fill in “HIV infection” or “AIDS” or “perinatal HIV exposure” in the box labeled “Disease or Condition.”**
 - **Fill in information about the possible HIV transmission risk factors (such as “injection drug use” or “sex with an injection drug user”) in the box labeled “Suspected Source of Infection.”**
- For the line labeled “Physician Requests Local Health Department to Assist with:” please indicate, by checking the appropriate “yes” or “no” box, if you would like assistance with either notifying your patient of their HIV test results (because they have not returned for their results and you have been unsuccessful in locating them) or in providing HIV partner services (because you do not believe that the patient has or will notify their partners and you are either unable to or have been unsuccessful in notifying their partners). The health department will work with you to identify the patient and/or their partner(s), and to confidentially deliver their test results and/or provide partner services.
- Reports should be phoned in or mailed to the local health officer **within 48 hours. They should NOT be sent by e-mail or fax.**